

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-05 MC-02 H-02 AID-05 IGA-02

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY ASD/ISA:JGRUNAWALT;PM/ISO:RWMASSEN:DME

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JWKIMBALL

EUR/RPM:DKINNEY

EUR/NE:SWORREL

----- 004228

R 050141Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

SECDEF

CSAF DC/XO

JCS DCJ5

USCINCEUR GE/J5

CINCUSAFE AB GE/CC

CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NE/CC

3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK/CC

S E C R E T STATE 053836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, SP

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN TANKER OPERATIONS IN THE UK

1. SUBJECT TO HMG APPROVAL, WE ANTICIPATE GRADUALLY INCREASING USAF TANKER ACTIVITY AT RAF MILDENHALL CONCURRENT WITH THE ULTIMATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 98 STRATEGIC WING FROM TORREJON AB, SPAIN. TIMING FOR THIS PROPOSED INCREASE IS DEPENDENT ON US SENATE ACTION AS WELL AS SPANISH APPROVAL OF THE TREATY ON FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

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2. WITH THE DRAWDOWN AT TORREJON, THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN UK BASED TANKER OPERATIONS WOULD CONTINUE THE SUPPORT OF A STRONG EUROPEAN TANKER FORCE FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO NATO. THIS TANKER EXPANSION AT MILDENHALL WILL PROVIDE A CONTINUED CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT FIGHTER DEPLOYMENTS FROM CONUS, WILL BE BASED CLOSER TO THE MAJORITY OF OUR EUROPEAN TACTICAL FORCES, AND WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT EUROPEAN TRAINING AND EXERCISES.

3. AS PRESENTLY ENVISIONED, EXPANDED TANKER OPERATIONS WOULD NORMALLY BE COMPOSED OF AN 11 KC-135 AIRCRAFT DETACHMENT VICE THE PRESENT AUTHORIZATION FOR FIVE AIRCRAFT, AND APPROXIMATELY 400 PERSONNEL VICE THE 152 PRESENTLY ASSIGNED.

A SURGE CAPABILITY TO 22 TANKERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT CONTINGENCIES.

4. WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, DOD WILL FURNISH INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ROSENCRANS, 3AF COMMANDER, SO HE MAY INITIATE A FORMAL REQUEST WITH UK MOD TO EXPAND OPERATIONS AT MILDENHALL AS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF TANKER SUPPORT IN EUROPE.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE053836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JGRUNAWALT;PM/ISO:RWMASSEN:DME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760084-0157
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760389/aaaadavg.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN TANKER OPERATIONS IN THE UK
TAGS: MARR, UK, SP
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006